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ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior

Public Health Inspector

for

1960



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# Atherton Urban District Council

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## Public Health Committee

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**Chairman :**

Councillor P. JONES

**Vice-Chairman:**

Councillor Mrs. A. HIGGINSON

**Councillors**

J. BOYDELL  
J. BROWN  
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G. H. PARKER

R. SHAW  
J. STIRZAKER  
C. URMSTON  
J. WESTWELL

## Public Health Officers

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**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :**

**E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

**SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :**

**THOMAS McGUIRE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., I.S.A.A.(Dip.),**  
**Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection.**

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :**

**ALFRED HEALY, M.A.P.H.I.**

**Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection.**

**CLERICAL ASSISTANT :**

**Miss S. HASLAM**

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Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Atherton.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee**

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ended 31st December, 1960, together with certain relevant statistical information.

The population of the district following the Census of 1951, was 20, 596, and this has declined each year for a few years until 1958, when it commenced to increase slightly again. It now stands at a mid 1960 estimate of 19,780.

A total of 320 births was a slight increase on the previous years and a still-birth rate of 16.5 was on a par with the 1959 figure.

There were no maternal deaths, but 7 infant deaths which although higher than last year gave a rate below the national figure.

Total deaths decreased by over 50.

As in previous years the sanitary circumstances covering environment, food legislation and slaughterhouses were kept under review.

The immunisation schemes and the various health facilities afforded to young and old, all functioned efficiently and well within the demands placed upon them.

In conclusion I should like to thank my fellow officers in all departments for their co-operation, and the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

E. TAYLOR.



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## SECTION A.

### Statistics.



## SECTION A

### STATISTICS

#### General Statistics

Area in acres—2,265.

Population—

1951 Census—20,596.

Mid 1960 Estimate—19,780.

Number of inhabited houses—6,758.

Rateable Value—£204,353.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£780.

#### Vital Statistics

<b>Live Births:</b> —		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	154	166	320
Illegitimate	...	6	1	7
		—	—	—
	Total	160	167	327
		—	—	—
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	.....			16.5
<b>Still Births:</b> —		Males	Females	Total
		7	2	9
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births)	.....			26.8
<b>Deaths—All Causes:</b> —		Males	Females	Total
		126	125	251
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	.....			12.7
Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	.....			12.7
<b>Maternal Deaths</b> .....				Nil
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births)	.....			Nil
<b>Infant Deaths</b> .....				7
Infantile Death Rate	.....			21.4
Neo-Natal Deaths	.....			5
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	.....			15.3
	Adjusted			

TABLE I  
VITAL STATISTICS

*Live Births	Stillbirths	*Deaths (all causes)	Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality		
			Total	Neo-natal	Total	Neo-natal	
No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popn	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths per 1,000 regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths per 1,000 live births	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1960 .....	327	16.5	9	26.8	251	12.7	nil
Year 1959 .....	308	15.6	8	25.3	805	15.1	1
Year 1958 .....	326	16.5	5	15	281	14.8	1
Year 1957 .....	289	14.6	7	24	814	17.4	nil
Year 1956 .....	305	15.2	7	22	256	14.3	nil
Year 1955 .....	258	12.6	11	42	262	14.0	nil
Avge. 5 years— 1955-59 .....	296	14.8	8	27	284	14.2	—
					1.3	6	19.7
						4	11.8

\* Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 16.5 per 1,000.  
death rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 12.7 per 1,000.

**TABLE II**  
**CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1960**  
 Registrar General's Return.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	...	1
Tuberculosis, other .....	1	...
Syphilitic Disease .....	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...
Meningococcal Infections .....	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	...
Measles .....	...	...
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	...	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	4	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....		6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	...	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ..	14	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	1	...
Diabetes .....	1	...
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	16	19
Coronary Disease, Angina .....	32	19
Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	2	3
Other Heart Disease .....	5	26
Other Circulatory Disease .....	4	4
Influenza .....	...	1
Pneumonia .....	2	8
Bronchitis .....	9	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	6	...
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	1	...
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	...	...
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	3	...
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	1	...
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	...	...
Congenital Malformations .....	5	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....	11	19
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	4	2
All other Accidents .....	.	4
Suicide .....	1	...
Homicide and operations of war .....	...	..
TOTAL .....	126	125

**TABLE III**  
**VITAL STATISTICS**

Birth and death rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales in the year 1960.  
(Provisional figures based on Registrar General's Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

Estimated home population mid-1960—45,755,000.

	Rate per 1,000
	No. home population
<b>Births</b>	
Live Births .....	782,673      17.1
Still Births .....	15,734      0.34
	19.7 (a)
<b>Deaths</b>	
All causes .....	526,278      11.5
Tuberculosis (all forms) .....	3,426      0.075
Respiratory .....	3,094      0.068
Non-respiratory .....	332      0.007
Cancer (all forms) .....	98,691      2.16
Lung and bronchus .....	21,992      0.48
Other cancer .....	76,699      1.68
Maternal mortality (total) .....	311      0.39 (a)
Maternal causes (exc. abortion) .....	248      0.31 (a)
Due to abortion .....	63      0.08 (a)
Infant Mortality .....	16,961      21.7 (b)
Neo-natal Mortality .....	12,188      15.6 (b)
<b>Notifications (corrected)</b>	
Typhoid fever .....	89      0.002
Paratyphoid fever .....	239      0.005
Meningococcal infection .....	630      0.014
Scarlet fever .....	32,166      0.703
Whooping cough .....	58,030      1.268
Diphtheria .....	53      0.001
Erysipelas .....	2,954      0.065
Smallpox .....	1      0.000
Measles .....	159,314      3.482
Acute pneumonia .....	14,543      0.318
Acute poliomyelitis—	
Paralytic .....	258      0.006
Non-paralytic .....	125      0.003
Acute encephalitis—	
Infective .....	145      0.003
Post-infectious .....	116      0.003
Dysentery .....	43,269      0.946
Food poisoning .....	7,722      0.169
Puerperal pyrexia .....	8,807      0.192
Tuberculosis—	
Respiratory .....	21,129      0.462
Meninges & C.N.S. .....	199      0.004
Other .....	2,662      0.058

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births

(b) Per 1,000 live births

## SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services  
for the Area.



## SECTION B

### Ambulance

Atherton and Leigh Ambulance Stations. Tel. Leigh 73111.

### Care of Children—Children Act, 1948

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer:—Miss J. M. Cole, 89 Railway Road, Leigh.

### Clinics

#### 1. ANTE-NATAL

Alder House Clinic.

Each Tuesday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

#### 2. DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS IMMUNISATION

(i) Alder House Clinic.

By arrangement, alternate Monday afternoons of the month.

(ii) General Practitioner Service.

#### 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

#### 4. OPHTHALMIC

Alder House Clinic, by appointment.

Each Tuesday, a.m.

#### 5. ORTHOPAEDIC

Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley, by appointment.  
2nd Thursday mornings of each month.

#### 6. POST-NATAL

Alder House Clinic.

Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

#### 7. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Thursday a.m.

#### 8. SPEECH THERAPY

Stonehouse Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

9. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY AND CHEST CLINIC  
Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.
10. VENEREAL DISEASES
  - (i) Civic Centre, Bolton.  
Males and Females: Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.
  - (ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.  
Males: Wednesday, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Females: Wednesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 4-30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### **Convalescence**

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisional Medical Officer.

### **Convalescent Treatment**

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

### **Health Visiting Service**

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

### **Home Help Service**

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

### **Home Nursing Service**

District Nurses employed by the C.C. are available in the district.

### **Hospitals**

1. **General**—Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital, Astley Hospital.
2. **Infectious Disease**—Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton.
3. **Maternity**—Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth.

## **Laboratory Facilities**

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmarys and the Monsall Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

## **Maternity Homes**

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Haslam, Havercroft & Heaton Grange Maternity Homes, Bolton.

## **Midwifery Service**

Domiciliary midwives employed whole time in the area by Lanes. C.C.

## **Nursing Homes**

None in the district.

## **Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children**

Provision for their care is made by the Lanes. C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

## **Welfare Services**

Under arrangements made by the Lanes. C.C.

Residential accommodation under Divisional arrangements.

## **X-ray Facilities**

At Bolton, Leigh, and Wigan Infirmarys. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.



## SECTION C.

Prevalence of and Control over  
Infectious and other Diseases.



## SECTION C

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

#### **Diphtheria**

Again it is pleasing to report no cases from this disease, the last notified case was in 1948, but the importance of immunisation of infants is continuously being stressed on the parents.

#### **Dysentery**

No cases notified of this disease.

#### **Erysipelas**

Only two cases were notified.

#### **Food Poisoning**

Once again there were no notifications of Food Poisoning.

#### **Malaria**

No notifications received.

#### **Measles**

An appreciable reduction in the number of cases this year as compared to last year. 105 cases notified as against 308 the previous year.

#### **Meningococcal Infection**

No notifications for the year.

#### **Paratyphoid Fever**

One notification of this disease was received.

#### **Pneumonia**

Pneumonia accounted for 21 notified cases, being a reduction of 7 on the previous year.

#### **Poliomyelitis**

There were no notified cases in the district.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia**

No notification for the year.

### **Scarlet Fever**

29 cases were notified.

### **Smallpox**

No notifications were received.

### **Tuberculosis**

8 cases of pulmonary infection and none of non-pulmonary gives a reduction of 5 cases on the previous year. There was one death.

### **Typhoid Fever**

No notification for the year.

### **Whooping Cough**

There were 48 cases as against 8 of the previous year.

TABLE IV

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1960

DISEASE.	Total Cases at all ages.	CASES NOTIFIED										Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65		
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles, excluding German Measles	105	7	6	15	19	12	45	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	21	1	4	...	1	1	...	3	2	5	4	10	...
Acute Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	29	...	3	5	2	12	5	2	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	48	3	7	7	10	7	10	4	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria (contracted abroad)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	3	...
	Females	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	...	5	...
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Females	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTALS</b>	...	213	11	17	25	34	22	68	10	4	6	2	10	4
														8

TABLE V

Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years

Year	Birth-rate	Death-Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Health & Enteritis			Malaria			Non-tubercular			Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Scarlet Fever			Typhoid Fever		
				Deaths	Days	Deaths	Deaths	Days	Deaths	Deaths	Days	Deaths	Deaths	Days	Deaths	Deaths	Days	Deaths	Deaths	Days	
1900	36.7	16.49	16.16	3	3	14	5	5	...	...	...	29	13	2	...	...	13	...	2		
1905	30.9	13.7	14.18	40	3	34	6	6	...	...	...	55	17	5	...	...	17	1	5		
1910	26.47	14.67	15.41	20	2	15	...	...	...	9	17	36	88	3	...	...	19	...	3		
1915	25.44	13.11	10.309	31	3	13	...	...	...	2	23	44	18	7	2	...	100	...	2		
1920	24.1	12.1	10.9	24	...	9	...	...	1	11	25	15	49	...	2	...	...	...	2		
1925	15.4	10.9	6.3	29	3	3	...	...	1	5	28	8	52	...	1	...	...	...	1		
1930	15.9	10.6	6.1	8	...	...	5	5	...	15	4	18	6	42	...	...	...	...	...		
1935	13.3	12.6	14.3	73	10	8	1	1	...	3	9	1	15	6	...	...	78	...	...		
1937	14.0	11.2	12.7	51	108	3	1	1	...	1	7	4	8	6	...	...	51	...	...		
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	127	7	...	...	5	5	9	2	8	8	...	...	37	...	...		
1940	15.5	12.0	12.0	35	9	3	...	...	3	69.5	...	8	1	7	9	9	88	...	...		
1943	18.2	12.8	12.8	74	12	2	2	2	...	191	...	8	3	11	5	49	...	...	...		
1944	16.29	11.86	11.86	60	8	...	1	1	...	382	...	7	2	9	5	70	...	...	...		
1945	17.9	11.3	11.3	23	2	...	...	...	...	66	...	8	2	7	4	42	...	...	...		
1946	17.6	10.9	10.9	39	5	...	1	1	...	511	...	9	...	12	2	22	...	...	...		
1947	19.7	13.3	13.3	50	1	...	...	1	...	77	...	7	...	11	5	79	...	...	...		
1948	15.2	10.0	10.0	28	1	...	...	...	...	364	...	7	...	11	5	104	...	...	...		
1951	12.9	13.4	14.2	8	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	10	...	12	4	59	...	...	...		
1952	15.8	12.4	13.1	15	...	...	...	...	...	494	1	9	...	11	...	97	...	...	...		
1953	15.1	21.6	22.9	44	...	...	...	...	...	104	...	2	2	24	4	50	...	...	...		
1954	13.7	11.8	12.6	22	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	5	...	6	2	27	...	...	...		
1955	12.6	13.0	14.0	12	...	...	...	...	...	316	...	...	...	15	2	22	...	...	...		
1956	15.2	12.8	14.3	23	...	...	...	...	...	278	...	1	...	6	3	9	...	...	...		
1957	14.6	15.8	17.4	42	...	...	...	...	...	164	...	2	2	10	1	46	...	...	...		
1958	16.5	14.3	14.3	18.4	...	...	...	...	...	23	...	1	...	14	2	19	...	...	...		
1959	15.6	15.4	15.1	6.5	...	...	...	...	...	308	...	1	...	12	2	31	...	...	...		
1960	16.5	12.7	12.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	29	...	...	...		
														105	...	...	...	...	...		





## SECTION D.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.



## SECTION D

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water Supply

The township of Atherton is supplied with water by the Manchester Corporation Water Undertaking.

The supply has been adequate and of good quality throughout the year.

The Corporation carry out all the relevant work involved in repairs and renewals of mains and services, and are establishing a depot in the area to handle all urgent demands.

Water samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory have been satisfactory.

#### Streams

There are no dye or chemical works in the area and consequently no pungent or offensive effluents being discharged into streams. Such water courses that flow within the boundary do suffer from indiscriminate dumping of waste material, of a wide and varied nature. The Council cause the removal of such debris as and when possible in an endeavour to keep streams free from obstruction and flowing freely.

#### Drainage and Sewerage

The drainage and sewerage is of the Combined drainage system and disposal is effected at the sewage works under the control of the Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewage Board.

Projects of sections of sewers affected by subsidence and the laying of new sewers for future housing developments, having been prepared during the year are now awaiting consent to proceed.

#### Sanitary Accommodation

At the end of 1960 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows, viz:—

Number of Privy Middens .....	Nil
Number of Pail Closets .....	4
Number of Trough Closets .....	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets .....	530
Number of Fresh Water Closets .....	7,504
Number of Dry Ashpits .....	Nil
Number of Moveable Ashbins .....	6,864
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System .	6,760

## Conversions during 1960:—

Number of Privy Closets to Pail Closets .....	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets .....	23

A considerable number of waste water closets as yet remain, scattered throughout the district. A survey is being carried out to assess this number, for the purpose of costing and elimination of these fittings by contract.

The grant of £9 paid by the Council towards the cost of conversion is still being paid, or alternatively the applicant can seek improvement grant, whichever is the better.

The small number of pails (4 in number) is no problem.

## Disinfestation

Four privately owned houses and two Council houses were treated during the year for bed bug infestation. D.D.T./Lindane residual spray insecticide was used in all cases. This proved effective and is easy to operate. Linen and articles requiring steam disinfection where lice is proven, are capably handled at the Bolton C.B. disinfection centre. Their co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## Scavenging

The collection of house refuse is the responsibility of the Health Department and a weekly collection is maintained, operating four 7/8 cubic yard refuse vehicles. Each vehicle has a team of driver and four men, with trailer attached for the collection of waste paper. Disposal is at the Council tip in Millers Lane, whilst paper is baled in the paper baling shed and sold to the Merchants. The income from the sale of paper amounted to £1,660 for the year, being equal to the product of over a two-penny rate.

Labour problems and the increase of new houses with long garden paths has lengthened the time taken to collect from dust bins. This situation will have to be resolved, probably by the acquisition of another vehicle.

## Factories and Workplaces

Inspection of premises were carried out throughout the year, and particulars are contained in Table VII of this report.

## Rats and Mice Destruction

The Council rodent operator is fully trained and actively engaged on rodent control throughout the year. A number of contracts for monthly routine treatment at factories, canteens, and bakehouses are undertaken; and half yearly a systematic sewer control treatment is carried out. A report of this treatment is forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture.

TABLE VI

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.			
	(1) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	Non-Agricultural (2) All Other (inc. Business Premises)	(3)	(4) Agricultural Total of Cols. (1) & (2)
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District .....	6758	427	7185	17
II. Number of properties inspected .....	86	134	220	9
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections .....	153	161	314	14
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by: (a) Rats    } Major .....	—	—	—	—
	22	32	54	3
	—	—	—	—
(b) Mice    } Minor .....	64	—	64	—
	—	—	—	—
V. Number of infested properties treated .....	86	33	119	3
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments .....	153	161	314	14
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act: (a) Treatment .....	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing) .....	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act .....	...	...	...	...
IX. Legal Proceedings .....	...	...	Nil	Nil
X. Number of "Block" control schemes car- ried out .....	...	...	...	Nil

Householders make reports of rats and/or mice infestation and baiting, with advice against further infestation, is carried out free of charge.

Baits used are Warfarin sewer bags for sewer treatment and Warfarin bait in trays for premises.

### **Swimming Baths**

Atherton Public Swimming Bath has had extensive alterations and improvements. Some £6,000 was spent on re-tiling the plunge and coupled with re-decorating and renewal of outmoded fittings, the interior now presents a most pleasant appearance. The filtration and purification plant are also to receive attention as required.

The baths still retains its popularity, and good attendance figures are obtained, whilst in addition the scholars of schools in Atherton, Westhoughton and Horwich attend for their training curriculum exercises.

The water is the town's mains supply and samples of the plunge taken whilst baths are in use and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, all proved satisfactory.

### **Schools**

The structural and sanitary arrangements of the schools are in general, satisfactory. Minor improvements and repairs have been carried out in the more dressing cases (Lee Street and St. Philip's).

In all schools fresh water W.C.'s are installed, but improvements to the ablution and drinking water facilities are desirable.

School meal arrangements received inspectorial attention throughout the year.

### **Offensive Trades**

There are no premises of this nature in the town.

### **Houses Let in Lodgings**

There are no common lodging houses in the district and only one "house-let-in-lodgings" and this is included in an area that is listed for future slum clearance.

### **Rag Flock Acts**

The one shop in the district registered under the Act is now using rubber foam or plaster fibre. These modern products are vermin free and most sound hygienically.

**TABLE VII**  
**FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948**

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	10	16	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	78	89	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) .....	3	7	1	—
 Total ...	<hr/> 91	<hr/> 112	<hr/> 10	<hr/> —
	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —

### Defects Found in Factories and Workshops

#### Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found	Abated	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness .....	8	8	—
Inadequate Ventilation .....	1	1	—
Unreasonable Temperature .....	1	1	—
Drainage of Floors .....	—	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—
 Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient .....	2	2	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	6	4	—
 Other Offences against the Act	—	—	—
 Total ...	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 16	<hr/> —
	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —



## SECTION E.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.



## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Places under Inspection

The number of food premises, by type of business, at end of 1960 were as follows:—

Grocers .....	89
Bakers .....	20
Confectioners (sweets, minerals, ice cream), etc. .....	37
Fried Fish Shops .....	18
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked meat, tripe, etc.) .....	23
Greengrocers .....	10
Fishmongers .....	6
Canteens, Snack Bars and Licensed Premises	49
Others .....	4

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1951, include:—

	No. of Premises	No. of Inspec- tions during 1960
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit and Vegetables	18	24
" Meat and Meat Products	2	4
Bakehouses .....	17	27
Fried Fish Shops .....	18	26
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises ...	4	17
Sausages, etc., Preparing Premises ...	16	23
Ice Cream Shops .....	63	94

#### Food Inspection

There were no outbreaks of disease attributable to foodstuffs and all food and food preparing premises were subject to regular inspection throughout the year.

Food traders and handlers alike are asked to observe the codes of practice and hygiene regulations applicable to the food trade and are informed of the dangers that arise from the careless handling of food.

Premises and equipments are being constantly improved and it is true to say that most traders realise that a well set out and clean shop is the best way of attracting customers.

Vans used for retail trading are quite a problem and it is sad to admit that the same statutory powers do not exist for dealing with these itinerant traders, as exists for dealing with permanent premises.

Sampling of food stuffs is carried out by the inspectors of the Lancashire County Council staff and their report is embodied under a separate heading in this report.

## Slaughterhouses

There are two wholesale butcher slaughterhouses in the district, with a daily killing carried out. Post mortem examination of carcase meat is a daily routine.

The following details of animals killed and inspected are presented.

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. Slaughtered .....	1108	1469	—	9003	1340
No. Inspected .....	1108	1469	—	9003	1340

### All Diseases other than T.B.

Whole Carcasses condemned	—	2	—	13	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	184	223	—	819	88
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis .....	16.6	15.2	—	9.1	6.6

### Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which part or organ was condemned .....	7	27	—	—	19
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.6	1.8	—	—	1.4

### Cysticercosis

Carcasses of which part or organ was condemned .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

## Unsound Food

The food condemned as unfit for human consumption, other than that stated in previous paragraphs, was as follows:—

2 tins Apples .....	12	lbs.
7 tins Apricots .....	7	lbs.
16 tins Apricot conserve .....	320	lbs.
18 tins Corned Beef .....	54	lbs.
5 tins Carrots .....	6½	lbs.
1 tin Crab .....	½	lb.
30 tins Fruit Salad .....	34	lbs.
39 tins Grapefruit .....	39	lbs.
8 pkts. Ground Rice .....	4	lbs.
11 tins Herrings .....	11	lbs.
19 tins Ham, cooked .....	166	lbs.
4 tins Irish Stew .....	4	lbs.
2 tins Jellied Veal .....	12	lbs.
31 tins Luncheon Meat .....	33	lbs.
14 tins Milk .....	14	lbs.
20 tins Ox Tongue .....	53	lbs.
39 tins Pears .....	46	lbs.
20 tins Peas .....	18	lbs.
38 tins Peaches .....	68	lbs.
1 tin Pork, chopped .....	4	lbs.
21 tins Pineapple .....	21	lbs.
8 tins Rice Pudding .....	8	lbs.
29 tins Stewed Steak .....	29	lbs.
4 pkts Soup Powder .....	1	lb.
6 tins Steak and Kidney .....	6	lbs.
18 tins Soup .....	14	lbs.
22 tins Salmon .....	11	lbs.
107 tins Tomatoes .....	73	lbs.
12 tins Xmas Pudding .....	12	lbs.

## Milk Supply

Atherton is a designated area and the production of milk is under the supervision of the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Producers are gradually changing over to Tuberculin Tested milk and the standard of production is quite good.

Supplies at all times have been adequate and school milk supplies are controlled by the County Council.

Sampling under the Food and Drugs Act is also carried out by the officers of the County Council and results of samples carried out locally for bacteriological examination are as follows:—

(a) Raw Milk:

(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests—

No. of samples 9. No. positive nil. No. negative 7. Nil result 2.

(ii) Methylene Blue Test—

No. of samples 9. No. satisfactory 9. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(iii) Brucellosis Test—

No. of samples 1. No. satisfactory 1. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(b) "Heat treated" Milk:

(i) Phosphatase Test—

No. of samples 7. No. satisfactory 7. No. unsatisfactory nil

(ii) Turbidity Test—

No. of samples 2. No. satisfactory 2. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(iii) Tuberculosis—

No. of samples 2. No. positive nil. No. negative 2.

A good wholesome water, sufficient in quantity and pressure, is supplied to all farms in the district from the town mains.

## Food Premises

Wholesale and retail food premises, bakehouses and cooked meat preparing businesses, have all been subject to visits and inspections throughout the year.

The structural condition of premises is generally satisfactory and the standard of cleanliness of equipments and personnel has been closely watched during the period of routine inspection.

There has been few occasions where written notification to the owners requesting remedial work to be carried out, has been necessary; due to the understanding shown by the managers in the establishment and their ready willingness to put matters right.

No abnormal insect or cockroach infestation of bakehouses has been reported and no report of gross contamination of foods. Minor infestations of rodents and crickets there have been, but these were quickly dealt with by management and health department staffs, jointly.

Hygiene regulation and Clean Food byelaws are consistently stressed and every effort made to encourage staffs to attain a more enlightened approach to clean food handling. A constant and firm appeal is made that hand washing facilities are consistently used in conjunction with toilet usage.

The sampling of foodstuffs for chemical analysis is carried out by the staff of the County Council and the County Medical Officer has kindly supplied me with a summary of such activities, which is appended.

## FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

A total of 100 samples was obtained, consisting of 75 samples of milk (6 of which were Channel Islands milk) and 25 others comprising:—

1 Tea	2 Sauce
1 Treacle	2 Compound syrup of
1 Syrup of figs	hypophosphites
1 Bronchial balsam	2 Meat pies
1 Pork sausages	1 Mouth ulcer pastilles
1 Battenberg cake (two slices) with foreign objects	1 Child's vitamin syrup 1 Salad cream 1 Malt and cocoa beverage
1 Pickles	1 Double cream
2 Orange drink	1 Baking powder
1 Travel sickness tablets	1 Gravy browning
1 Milk shake syrup	1 Vegetables, fresh, potatoes

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:—

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 Pork sausages	Contained 195 parts per million preservative without declaration	Vendor notified
1 Battenberg cake with foreign objects (two slices)	Contained the head and thorax and separately the abdomen of a four winged insect of the nature of a honey bee, weighing 0.13 grams	Bakery cautioned

## SECTION F.

Housing.



## SECTION F

### HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the Local Authority .....	77	8
(ii) By other Local Authorities .....	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	13	—

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	433
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose .....	729
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) Number found during year .....	22
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year	154
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit .....	396

#### 2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957, and Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:	
(a) Unfit houses .....	13
(b) Other houses .....	—
(2) Number of Persons displaced .....	25

#### 3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

	No. of houses	No. of persons displaced
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:—		
Housing Act, 1957:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure .....	—	—
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 16 and still in force .....	4	12
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 17) .....	—	—

(2) Repairs during the year:—

\*No. of houses

(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts .....	242
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners .....	6
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Housing Act, 1957—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11):—	
Houses made fit:—	
(i) By owners .....	3
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954:—	
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)...	Nil

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 .....	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) .....	Nil

\*A defective house remedied more than once during the year is included once only.

**Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants, etc.**

Action during the year:—

	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwellings Affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority .....	78	78
(b) Approved by Local Authority .....	71	71
(c) Submitted by L.A. to Ministry .....	—	—
(d) Approved by the Ministry .....	—	—
(e) Work completed .....	52	52

## General Inspections

Houses (including re-visits) .....	729
Schools .....	15
Factories and Workplaces .....	128
Bakehouses .....	234
Food preparing places .....	223
Dairies, Miscellaneous, etc. ....	568
Shops .....	249
Slaughter-houses .....	621
	<hr/>
	2767
	<hr/>

In connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:—

	Found	Remedied
House roofs in need of repair .....	53	49
Defective W.C.'s .....	59	57
Choked or defective drains .....	19	19
Defective plaster of walls, etc., .....	104	82
Insanitary condition of yards .....	2	2
House walls damp .....	87	58
Defective eaves gutters .....	13	11
Defective windows, etc. ....	22	21
Animals kept as to be a nuisance .....	2	2
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, etc.) .....	53	34
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	414	335
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz.:—

Informal .....	157
Statutory .....	17

## Rent Act, 1957

There have been no applications made for certificates of disrepair under the above Act. Action for the repair to property has resolved to the Public Health and Housing Acts procedure.

## GENERAL. Conditions and observations

Atherton is an active Northern industrial town, with a population of approximately 20,000, an area of over 2,200 acres and various industries of cotton, coal, nut and bolt manufacturing and a large passenger transport undertaking.

There are over 6,700 inhabited properties and as is to be found in this kind of industrial town, there are areas of terraced row properties dating some 80 to 90 years old. The suburban privately owned and the Council estate properties, are modern and pleasantly laid out. There are no out-and-out slums, but some of the older terraced properties are admittedly sub standard. It is intended to deal with these in further clearance programmes. Completed programmes of slum clearance and re-development have been really praiseworthy of a town of such dimensions. The town is not entirely void of mining subsidence, which accentuates the problem of the planners in their quest for schemes of development. There are no back-to-back or single back type of properties in the district and no common lodging houses.

The two completed aged peoples' bungalow schemes are eminently satisfactory and are genuinely appreciated by the occupiers, who are finding the comfort and leisure they so richly deserve. It is, however, not going to be a case of "resting on our oars" for further schemes of a like nature are already well in hand.

Applications for Council houses stand at around 250 and these needs are also being actively pursued and schemes prepared for providing accommodation for them.

In the field of improvement of older dwellings considerable progress has been made and quite a number of houses have now been modernised to include basic amenities of bath, hot water and W.C. accommodation. Grants totalling £35,000 have been made for this purpose, resulting in some extremely nice cottage houses.

The establishing of Smoke Control Areas is being undertaken and daily volumetric stations are now in operation on two sites in the town area.

As in other years, works of improvement to street lighting, private street works and improvements, have all been receiving attention and are dealt with by your Surveyor.

## SECTION G.

### Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement.



## Atmospheric Pollution

Deposit gauges are provided, in addition to lead peroxide apparatus, at the two stations set up at the St. George's School and Alder House sites.

The readings obtained are as follows:—

### Monthly Deposits in Tons per Square Mile and Sulphur Dioxide by the Lead Peroxide Method

	Rainfall in ins.	pH	Tons Insoluble Deposit	per square Soluble Deposit	mile Total Solids	SO <sub>2</sub> /mg. day 100 <sup>2</sup> cm
<b>Alder House</b>						
January	...	5.28	3.7	10.10	7.87	17.97
February	...	1.89	3.7	8.52	4.17	12.69
March	...	1.50	3.7	8.38	3.73	12.11
April	...	1.69	3.9	8.49	3.73	12.22
May	...	2.29	3.9	17.59	3.52	21.11
June	...	0.79	4.3	7.90	3.90	11.8
July	...	4.49	4.1	7.97	6.13	14.10
August	...	5.28	4.1	10.10	4.79	14.89
September	...	3.59	3.9	9.48	4.41	13.89
October	...	4.02	3.7	8.52	6.78	15.30
November	...	2.52	3.7	5.85	3.63	9.48
December	...	3.55	4.3	5.95	6.19	12.14
Monthly Average	...	3.07	3.92	9.07	4.91	13.98
			Mean			2.19
<b>St. George's School</b>						
January	...	5.79	3.7	12.79	8.25	21.04
February	...	2.32	3.9	10.39	5.91	16.30
March	...	1.65	3.6	11.66	5.54	17.20
April	...	0.51	3.7	3.16	2.03	5.19
May	...	2.64	3.9	16.51	7.05	23.56
June	...	1.58	3.9	14.96	4.95	19.91
July	...	5.83	4.1	10.35	7.19	17.54
August	...	5.67	3.9	13.69	6.98	20.67
September	...	3.70	3.7	6.95	5.78	12.73
October	...	4.37	3.7	10.32	5.64	15.96
November	...	2.80	3.7	3.58	3.27	6.85
December	...	4.06	3.9	10.97	9.15	20.12
Monthly Average	...	3.41	3.81	10.44	5.98	16.42
			Mean			2.34
						Mean

In addition to the deposit gauges and lead peroxide apparatus, there has been established a daily volumetric station at the Town Hall. This gives a daily pollution reading by way of a smoke stained filter paper and assessment of sulphur concentration by titration. These daily recordings are displayed outside the Town Hall for the general public to view.

The following results given show the highest, lowest and average readings in each month.

Full particulars of the observations are submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Station, London, of which this Council is a member of the Standing Joint Committee.

	Smoke in milgrams per 100 cu. metres			SO <sub>2</sub> parts per 100 million		
	Av.	High	Low	Av.	High	Low
January	51.	143.	19.	15.4	29.4	4.7
February	41.	92.	12.	10.8	21.2	3.4
March	26.	43.	12.	7.0	12.4	2.9
April	17.3	35.5	9.2	18.1	35.5	4.8
May	19.7	54.	5.	8.9	15.8	2.3
June	9.5	27.	3.	4.7	19.2	1.2
July	10.2	22.	5.	2.8	6.3	1.1
August	15.3	45.	10.	4.3	8.4	2.6
September	4.4	58.	9.	4.4	19.5	2.5
October	29.8	63.	11.	3.3	18.3	3.4
November	39.1	118.	13.	10.68	37.4	3.4
December	57.1	130.	16.	14.8	36.9	2.8

## SECTION H.

**Shops Act.**



## **SECTION H**

### **SHOPS ACT**

The administration of the Shops Act, 1950, is the responsibility of the Council, but no separate inspectorate exists for this purpose.

It is while inspections under the various other enactments are carried out at shops and warehouses, that conditions affecting the health, comfort and welfare of shop assistants are also given attention.

Verbal suggestions for the improvement of a particular operation or written notification of structural remedies required, have been sufficient to secure improvement in any specific infringement and no occasion has arisen demanding statutory proceedings.

The main shopping centre has been brightened by structural improvements carried out by some of the larger concerns.

Contracts exist with the more enlightened firms and businesses, for the control of rats and mice as a monthly routine measure.

A year of steady progress, but nonetheless encouraging.





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